The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting the labor movement, including the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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TRICKY ARGUMENT CAN'T CONCEAL ANTI-STRIKE PURPOSE

What is clear is that in the operation of coal mines, as in the operation of railroads, telephones, water companies, or banks, the public interest must be respected and served, and that this requirement places limitations on the rights of owners of coal lands, operators, mine workers, carriers and dealers.

The above portion of the United States coal commission's preliminary report is a sample of present-day economic thought.

That the public may be served, the workers' rights must be limited! Or, in other words, stop strikes when the public is inconvenienced.

Workers may ask: "What of our rights?" The new philosophy (?) replies: "Not to be considered. You may not know it, but when you accept this employment your rights are necessarily subject to limitation, and therefore you can be jailed if you strike."

This is the hokus pokus now passing for social justice, and which has been approved by the United States supreme court (Wilson vs. New).

The public may continue its sweet way, oblivious of the workers' wrongs, but the latter must have "limitations" placed on their rights, that "the public interest may be respected and served."

Truly, these be unusual statesmen that doth advise—and delude—the multitude.

Attention is also called to the cunning manner in which the commission classifies the workers' rights and the operation of public utilities.

"Limitations on the rights of owners of coal operators, mine workers, carriers and dealers" is what the commission favors.

To the rights of workers means to control their right to strike, and jail them if they disobey.

When a corporation is regulated, the liberty of its officials is not interfered with. Corporations may be fined, and the charge is passed on to the public, but corporation officials are never jailed.

It is absurd to say there is no difference, for instance, between a government order that railroad rates be reduced and a law that workers can not quit their employment.

In the case of the railroad, there is nothing elemental involved. No fundamental right of the railroad president, board of directors or stockholders is denied.

There may be differences of opinion between the government and the railroad. The latter may not agree on the justness of the rate order, but this is a difference of detail and not of principle. The railroads and all other public utilities acknowledge the right of the government to regulate them. This principle is never disputed, though its application often is.

The workers, however, deny the right of government to regulate them, as advocated by the coal commission.

When the worker is "regulated" his personal liberty is instantly affected.

Personal liberty is fundamental. It must not be subject to the mood of man or will notions that run counter to the experience of the ages.

The good human being to own himself is imperishable. It has survived every iron heel.

It is idle to say that wage workers will surrender ownership of themselves because the agents of greed have evolved a sophistry which, when stripped bare, means:

"The public's convenience justifies slavery."

WILL ROGERS EXPLAINS WHY GARY WANTS TIME

New York, July 28.—Will Rogers, comedian and philosopher, explains why Judge Gary wants time to abolish the 12-hour work day. In his weekly syndicated article, Mr. Rogers says:

"Now Mr. Gary says it will take time. You see, a man who has been working for years for 12 to 14 hours a day, and you cut him down to eight, you have a physical wreck on your hands. You take a person who is used to the cool air of a steel furnace for half the 24 hours of each day and bring him into the stuffy atmosphere of outdoors, or a home, and he can't stand it."

WORKERS PLEAD GUILTY UNDER THREATS OF MOB

Little Rock, Ark., July 28.—Federal Judge Jacob Trieber has refused to cut red tape and order the release of Vurlen Orr and Luther Wise, Missouri & North Arkansas railroad strikers, who confessed to burning railroad bridges on the advice of a judge who told them if they did not plead guilty their lives would not be spared by the mob. He then sentenced them to seven years in the penitentiary.

Federal Judge Trieber refused to release the prisoners on a writ of habeas corpus. He told them they could ask the governor to pardon them—that they should beg for justice so clearly due them.

Former Circuit Judge Mitchell testified that he advised Orr and Wise to plead guilty to burning bridges and take penitentiary sentences to save themselves from mob violence. The former judge is now acting as attorney for the workers.

The two strikers, Judge Mitchell said, reluctantly accepted his advice, after declaring that they were not guilty, and were sentenced to seven years each in the penitentiary by Circuit Judge Shinn.

Wise and Orr told Judge Trieber they were threatened with lynching unless they pleaded guilty to the charge, and again declared that they were not given an opportunity of a fair trial at which, they said, they could have established their innocence.

Former Judge Mitchell testified that Orr and Wise at first entered a plea of not guilty, but that the mob outside the court house, numbering several hundred armed men, uttering threats and making an uproar, became so demonstrative that he feared for their lives and prevailed upon them, after considerable argument, to save themselves by taking penitentiary sentences.

This same mob lynched a striker at Harrison, January 15 last, and drove 300 railroad strikers and their families from that city. Officials of the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad issued a public call for all citizens to "uphold law and order." The mob was the result of this call.

FILIPINOS DON'T LIKE MILITARISTIC RULE

Washington, July 28.—Little publicity has been given to the Filipino side of the ruction between them and General Wood, governor general of the Philippine Islands, and which has resulted in the resignation of several Filipino officials because of "encroachments by the governor general upon the constitutional rights already enjoyed by the Filipino people, and against the usurpation of powers in direct violation of existing laws."

According to the Filipinos, General Wood, in true military style, disregarded law and reinstated an official who had been suspended from office. This was the culmination, in a long series of differences between him and the Filipinos, who said to him in their letter of resignation:

"We have observed for some time past that it is your policy and desire as governor general to intervene and cite consumer's dollar goes for freight control, even to the smallest details, the affairs of our government, both insular and local, in utter disregard of the authority and responsibility of the department heads and other officials concerned. This policy recently culminated in an unfortunate incident which shook to its foundations the public opinion of the country, when you, by undue interference with the powers and jurisdiction of the secretary of the interior and the mayor of Manila, reinstated a member of the secret service of the city who has been lawfully suspended from office, and whose resignation you subsequently accepted on your own initiative. And, to make matters worse, you refused to action without hearing the proper officials.

"This series of acts constitutes a clear violation of the fundamental law of the land, and other legal provisions, especially those of act 2803, and of section 2447 of the administrative code, and at the same time is a backward step and a curtailment of Filipino autonomy guaranteed by the organic act (passed by the United States congress) and which the Filipino people continuously since the operation of the Jones law."

LEASING OF CONVICTS PROTESTED BY MINERS

Washington, July 28.—In communication to the United States coal commission, the United Mine Workers have asked that the Alabama convict mine leasing system be investigated. Convicts, it stated, are "compelled to suffer torture" that anti-union mining companies may reap rich profits. These concerns have lowered production costs and at the same time have raised the price of coal.

The union, it was added, "emphatically protests against the employment of convicts in coal mines in competition with free labor in Alabama or anywhere else."

Right-minding citizens in Alabama are fighting this leasing system, and have organized a state-wide committee for this purpose. The state legislature has just declined to abolish the system because it would mean a loss of income to the state. The evils of the system have been brought home to Alabama citizens as a result of the exposures of conditions in the Florida convict camps.

IGNORE RAIL LABOR BOARD

Chicago, July 28.—The Erie railroad continues to ignore the railroad labor board's order against contracting its repair work. The Lincoln engineering company has the contract for laying from 5 to 10 cents an hour less than the wage of similar classes of railroad workers.

The labor board also rules that the company has made itself liable for a money recovery to every employe who suffered loss of compensation when the carrier arbitrarily reduced the wages of crossing watchmen, flagmen and gatemen in violation of a decision by the board.

The Western Maryland railroad has been published by the board for violating the board's orders. The carrier failed to abolish contracting of its work.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Fairmont, W. Va., July 28.—The sixteenth annual convention of the West Virginia state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Monday, Sept. 10. The call states that the determined fight waged by anti-unionists in this state "makes it mandatory that we unite and act in union in all matters that tend to the common good."

Decatur, Ill., July 28.—The annual convention of the Illinois state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning September 10.

KEY MEN RAISE WAGES.

New York, July 28.—Wage increases for press telegraphers that range from $1.75 to $8.75 a week has been granted by the United press association, the International news service and the Universal service. Roscoe H. Johnson, international president of the Commercial Telegraphers' union of America, conducted negotiations for the workers.

COAL FREIGHT COST IS JUICY RAIL PLUM

Washington, July 28.—A large portion of the consumer's dollar spent for coal goes for freight charges, according to the United States coal commission, which urges the interstate commerce commission to re-examine "the reasonableness of anthracite freight rates."

"The item of freight alone takes from 16 to 20 cents of the consumer's dollar," the coal probers say. "The question of whether or not the existing freight rates on anthracite are excessive is one that comes under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission. More than 20 years ago President Gowen of the Philadelphia & Reading referred to this traffic as 'very profitable,' and in those later years anthracite has been termed by the carriers their 'backbone traffic.'

"As so large a part of the anthracite consumer's dollar goes for freight charges, a material reduction in the price of coal might come through a reduction of freight rates. With a keen appreciation of the public demand for the scrutiny of every item in the cost of anthracite, the coal commission urges upon the interstate commerce commission, the duly constituted agency of the federal government, a re-examination of the reasonableness of anthracite freight rates. The pending application of carriers and mining companies in three larger systems makes opportune the reconsideration of the subject by the commission."

HAND-PICKED "UNION" REVEALS ITS PURPOSE

Philadelphia, July 28.—The company "union" of the Baldwin locomotive company has flivered, and Thomas E. Mitten, father of the so-called "Mitten plan" has handed another gold brick to his employes.

When Mitten started his "union" it was agreed that it should be the voice of wages paid in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo. At that time street car strikes in Detroit and Cleveland were strongly organized. Since then Mitten has tried to enforce his scheme in Buffalo, but is meeting defeat.

The real thing wage scales are being revised-and Mitten realizes he will have to raise wages. And that is not the purpose of a company "union," President Mitten provided a substitute that the increase be termed in the form of increase price of more street car company stock. The employes naturally want the cash, but a self-appointed group of "leaders" voted to accept the Mitten suggestion.

AIR TRAVEL COMMON WITHIN TEN YEARS

Washington, July 28.—Within 10 years airplane travel will have increased as rapidly as automobile travel increased between 1905 and 1915, according to the United States bureau of standards.

"The effect of the airplane, if developed as is expected," it stated, "will be to extend vastly greatly the distance to which such trips can be made in a given period of time. They will permit commuting for distances of 100 miles, while week-end trips will be made from New York to the Thousand islands; from San Francisco to Yosemite; from Washington and Boston to the mountains of Virginia, and from Boston to the Maine woods."

It is stated that the possibilities indicate an extension of the city's influence, with rise in real estate values and an increase in prosperity for many of the smaller towns.

PLEADS FOR LABOR PRESS.

Duluth, Minn., July 28.—In his annual report to the state federation of labor, President Hall made this plea for the labor press:

"I do not know of anything that is brought into our unions that is discussed more for the betterment of our unions than is the public press. Every trade unionist realizes that he can not get much consolation or confidence for the labor movement in the daily press of the country, and yet the only avenue of information that is most friendly, that speaks fairly for the men and women of labor is the labor press, which has the hardest row to hoe. I hope that the delegates to this convention, when they return to their home cities, will endeavor to increase the interest that will make it possible to have a larger subscription among the membership that may accrue, and more interest among the men and women who work."

BUILDING COSTS UP.

Washington, July 28.—The cost of building continued to rise in June, according to statistics made public by the department of commerce. The largest single number of buildings for a brick house, based on 1913 as 100, rose to 215 in June, as against 214 in May. Costs for a frame house were practically stationary at 212.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Cleveland, July 28.—Truck drivers have secured a one-year agreement which raises wages $3 to $6 a week.

NATURE TO THE RESCUE

(From the Australian Worker)

It is a wonderful experience to attend a labor conference.

Why?

Because it is so natural. Because it palpitates with human-ness. Because you can feel yourself in contact with the tingling centers of life.

There is so little that is natural in the human world. At every point you are met by convention, tradition. It is almost impossible, save in some great crisis, to break down the barriers of artificiality that separate your soul from all the souls of men.

So seldom can you see your fellow creatures as they really are. Masks predominate. You move among disguised personalities.

At a labor conference it is different. Different entirely. Convention is ignored there. Tradition, custom, precedent—all the things that get between human beings and keep them apart—are left outside the door at a labor conference.

Thought is swift, speech is direct. Words are used in their plainest sense. There are no delusive subtleties. You have no doubt about what is said—need not to search for hidden meanings.

A labor conference is the place to see men and women as their true selves—maskless, undisguised. Truth and candor are heard there. Their voices are blunt, harsh not infrequently, but the ring is unmistakable: there is in it no echo of the eloquence of insincerity.

It is good to listen to a labor conference.

IMMIGRATION PLEA IGNORE MARKET FACTS

Washington, July 28.—With a decline in the steel market, Garyism is now attempting to make immigration propaganda by claiming that the 12-hour day would be quickly abandoned if sufficient labor could be secured. This claim has been fully answered by organized church men, representing the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish denominations.

"The plea that a shortage of labor makes impracticable the change from two to three shifts is specious," the lords but a meager defense. The shortage of labor was not the reason for the failure to abolish the long day two years ago when the public waited for such a salutary step on the part of the United States steel corporation. At that time there was appalling unemployment which could have been in large measure relieved if steel manufacturing districts by introducing the three-shift system in the steel industry. The task before the institute—a report of a very different tenor."

SWEATSHOP METHODS AFFECT THE PUBLIC

Newark, N. J., July 28.—In their campaign against child labor and sweatshops in this city, officials made this discovery:

Each mother was supporting herself, an invalid husband and four children by preparing buttons to be used on white canvas shoes. To find the button she placed a pin to which the button was fastened to the shoe. When she had done 144 of these she received two cents for the lot.

Non-Union Mill Workers Facing Ten Per Cent Cut

Raleigh, N. C., July 28.—Textile barons in this section are preparing to cut wages of unorganized employes, and members of the United Textile Workers of America remind these workers that they were told the recent 10 per cent increase was only a "sop" to keep them out of the union. A third cut, and the 10 per cent increased flippantly declared that "we don't believe in unions." They were fooled by the praise of mill bosses and textile-controlled newspapers.

In discussing a wage cut at Lowell, Gaston county, Editor Barrett of the Charlotte Herald says:

"That is the place where Mr. Ross invested $1,200 a few years ago and has received on that small investment 70 additional shares of stock and cash dividends amounting to $4,200, and is now suing some of his associates for an accounting of another profit of $792,000."

HOUSING IMPROVES.

Washington, July 28.—In the current issue of the Monthly Labor Review, published by the bureau of labor statistics, it is stated that there was a great improvement in the housing situation last year.

"The number of families provided for in the 1922 program amounted to about 350,000, approximately 150,000 more than were served by the buildings erected in 1921," says this periodical.

AN ANCIENT SONG.

New York, July 28.—The Wall Street Journal revives this ancient song that employers have used with a long and well known to trade unionists:

"One thing may be positively stated, the United States steel corporation will never yield to the unions, and in this position it has the whole-hearted backing of the large independents and the trade as a whole."

COAL OWNERS' MONEY USED AGAINST LABOR

Lewisburg, W. Va., July 28.—J. A. Scott, Logan county deputy sheriff, and "fixer" for the coal owners, paid Charles Williams, a miner, $1,700 to manufacture evidence against William Blizzard, sub-district president United Mine Workers, who is charged with murder in connection with the miners' march two years ago.

"What kind of evidence were you to get?" asked Attorney Townsend, chief counsel for the miners.

"Oh, anything to suit the occasion," replied Williams.

The witness revealed methods employed by the coal owners and their agents to "frame" union miners. He said the money was paid to him with the understanding that he would "get evidence." Williams was but one of several witnesses who told of similar sums expended by the coal owners to "railroad" mine workers and debauch justice.

It was shown that the Logan county grand jury returned indictments for treason and murder against men who had been dead several months before the date on which the alleged crimes were committed.

SHIP LINES BLAMED FOR ALIEN EXCESS

New York, July 28.—Greedy ship companies are responsible for the excess of aliens, according to W. W. Husband, commissioner general of immigration. The companies took a "gambler's chance" in bringing immigrants when the quotas were nearly filled, and as a result a large number of deportees are held at Ellis island.

Mr. Husband said steamship companies ignored offers to furnish them with statistics on quotas. He said he urged the companies to carry only 15 of the possible 20 per cent of immigrants that could be admitted during the current month, the first of the new fiscal year. This, he said, would have prevented overcrowding as a result of the pouring in of immigrants at other ports and along the Canadian and Mexican borders.

Ellis island officials said steamships arriving after the quotas are filled are liable to a fine of $200 a head for each alien deported, in addition to refunding transportation money to the immigrants.

WANT EYE STANDARD.

Paterson, N. J., July 28.—The medical society of New Jersey is endeavoring to establish a basis of standardization for injuries coming under the workmen's compensation law of this state.

Dr. Elias J. Marsh of this city, a leading member of the society, has for years urged this policy. He says it is common for one physician to testify that a workman has but 20 per cent of his efficiency because of an injured eye, while another physician will hold that efficiency has been reduced 40 per cent. Dr. Marsh insists that the medical profession end this conflict of opinion, and if possible find a common basis.

The present difference of opinion among medical men is in connection with injuries to the eye.

WAGE LAW SET ASIDE.

Indianapolis, July 28.—The Indiana state supreme court has set aside the state law requiring the payment in full of all wages due any employe within two days after leaving service, whether voluntarily or by discharge. An amount equal to the wages must also be paid, besides a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500.

The court said these penalties were excessive and out of all proportion to the damages actually suffered by those entailed if the law was not complied with.

CLOAK STRIKE ENDS.

Baltimore, July 28.—Every cloak shop in this city, but three, are operating union shop, as a result of a strike, which has just ended. Wages are increased $1 to $10 a week. The cloak makers are determined to ensure the three anti-union shops, and these proprietors have raised wages as a counter move.

PUBLIC IS DIVERTED FROM RAIL PROFITS

Chicago, July 28.—Railroad financiers are feeling the people "moonin" regarding railroad values to divert attention from their own profits, is the suggestion of Donald R. Richberg, attorney for the shop men and counsel on the labor board members in valuation of American railroads.

The attorney, together with associates, have prepared an answer to the many vague and questionable statements made regarding railroad conditions.

"The era of frenzied finance is not over," the attorneys say. "The Northern Pacific and Great Northern roads are completing the purchase of the Burlington road without the payment of a dollar, the entire purchase price—$207,000,000—being paid by the public through excessive rates.

"The era of scandalous management of railroads for private profit is not ended. The rascality of the $100,000,000 Cleveland terminals project, involving the New York Central, the Pennsylvania and Nickel Plate roads has not been fully accomplished, but a bad odor is noticeable.

"The interstate commerce commission admits that under the valuations act it must ascertain the original cost of railway properties, yet it has failed to do so, and says it can not be done. The conference attorneys are seeking to prove it can be done.

"Why should the railroad executives find it necessary to bootleg 'moonshine' to newspapers in country concerning these questions? Possibly it is the hope of diverting public attention from the scandalous profit-making of our public service."

"PITTSBURGH PLUS" BENEFITS STEEL TRUST

Chicago, July 28.—A permanent organization has been formed to combat the basing point system of prices, practice, and at the request of the attorneys general of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, the federal trade commission has postponed its decision on this matter until December 10 next, when further hearings will be conducted.

Under the Pittsburgh plus system steel prices must include freight from Pittsburgh, though the steel may have been made in Chicago, Gary or Birmingham. This puts Pittsburgh mills on an equality with mills near the raw material, and the public pays the difference.

Opponents of Pittsburgh plus insist that freight charges from Pittsburgh should not enter into the price, which is unfairly fixed and in restraint of trade. Attorney General Hilton of Minnesota declares that the system annually costs the people of the Mississippi valley between $25,000,000 and $30,000,000.

"An unfair and unwarranted benefit is reaped by the steel industry at large and an unfair advantage is given to the Pittsburgh district," he says.

NO EMPLOYMENT CHANGE

Washington, July 28.—There was practically no change in May and June employment figures issued by the United States bureau of labor. The increase of June over May was less than one-tenth of one per cent, it is stated.

Identical establishments in May reported 2,351,627 employes, and total pay rolls of $60,405,157," says the bureau.

"Therefore in June, as shown from these unweighted figures for 50 industries combined, there was an increase over May of less than one-tenth of one per cent in number employed, a decrease of 0.5 per cent in total amount paid in wages, resulting in a like decrease in the average weekly earnings. The general increase in rates of wages was continued, in a lesser degree, during the month ending June 15, 472 establishments reporting an average increase of 10.7 per cent, affecting 77,723 employes, or 3.1 per cent of all employes in these establishments, and 2.5 per cent of all employes covered. Approximately 60 establishments have reported increases of nearly 60 per cent during the last four months."

WAITERS MAKE GAINS.

Laramie, Wyo., July 28.—After a week's strike, organized cooks, waiters and waitresses have secured the six-day week and the eight-hour day. When the strike was first proposed, the bosses had heart disease. They said a 48-hour week is out of the question. But time changed their minds.

REJECT WAGE OFFER.

Newark, N. J., July 28.—More than 1,000 workers in the silk industry have rejected the offer of the public service corporation that they continue the present wage schedule and working conditions for five years.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Murphysboro, Ill., July 28.—A wage increase of 5 cents an hour and union recognition has been secured by platform men in the Murphysboro & Southern Illinois interurban railroad. The schedule is 45 cents an hour and a nine-hour work day.

ELECTION OF U.S. JUDGES IS PEOPLE'S NEXT STEP

Bellingham, Wash., July 28.—Election of federal judges is the next step in the people's direct control of their government, declared United States Senator Dill, in an address to the annual convention of the Washington state federation of labor. The speaker said he would introduce such a constitutional amendment when congress convenes this fall.

"Our superior and state supreme court judges now submit their records to the people at regular intervals, and what is there sacred about federal judges that should not be held down to the same requirement?" asked Senator Dill.

"I favor requiring seven out of nine supreme court judges to declare a law unconstitutional. It requires two-thirds to override the president. Surely it is reasonable to require more than two-thirds to override both congress and the president.

"We require a unanimous vote of judges and the state of Ohio requires all but one judge before a law can be declared unconstitutional."

In referring to the movement against the primary system, the speaker said: "We not only must retain the primary for the nomination of all state officials, congressmen and senators, but we should work to enlarge it so it will apply to the nomination of presidents as well.

"The direct primary is another step in the application of the principle that the people have the right to rule, and especially to name the men who are to be their officials."

FORCE ANTI-UNION OATH ON STREET CAR WORKERS

New York, July 28.—The Brooklyn and Manhattan transit company is compelling employes to make oath before a notary public that they will not join a labor union, according to Patrick J. O'Brien, vice president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes.

"To date, more than 200 men have been discharged for no other reason than refusing to sign the oath of intent to join in the fight for better wages and conditions," said the union official. The company is using dozens of so-called detectives to spy upon the men and officers of the Amalgamated.

"In spite of all this we are making headway on the B. M. T. lines. While they are watching myself and others they know, men whom the 'bulls' do not know are busy. Many men are enrolling by mail. If the company begins to shadow all who are working with us, it will be back in the hands of a receiver again."

FOOD PRICES GOING UP; WHOLESALE PRICES DOWN

Washington, July 28.—Food prices are up and general wholesale prices down is the report of the United States bureau of labor statistics on prices for June. It is stated that wholesale prices decreased 2 per cent and food prices advanced 1 per cent.

Potatoes, with 19 per cent, recorded the largest increase; round steak was next with 5 per cent; sirloin steak, leg of lamb, and onions, 4 per cent; chuck roast and bananas, 3 per cent; rib roast and cheese, 2 per cent; ham and fresh eggs, 1 per cent.

The largest decrease in food prices was 23 per cent for cabbage; butter recorded a 4 per cent loss; hens, 2 per cent; oranges, 3 per cent; plate beef, 1 per cent, coffee, prunes and raisins, 1 per cent.

VACATION NECESSARY.

New York, July 28.—No one can afford to go without a vacation, declares Dr. Mathias Nicoll, Jr., state commissioner of health.

"A vacation does not necessarily mean going away to an expensive hotel," he said. "Your dictionary will tell you that vacation means freedom from usual duties. There are distinct advantages in visiting new places, but these can usually be obtained at small cost at a short distance from home. If necessary, the people get the best kind of rest and pleasure at small camps, where living conditions are not nearly so good but the total effect of scenery, new activities, the ability to be and dress as one pleases is such that they return home mentally and physically in a condition to do more and better work."

CONTROLS ITALY'S PRESS.

Washington, July 28.—According to the United States department of state, Mussolini's censorship over the Italian press is complete, despite a feeble protest by these newspapers. Representatives of the Italian press association presented a resolution to Mussolini characterizing as "inacceptable" government supervision.

Mussolini told the editors not to offend him or they would feel the power of the fascisti. He said he hoped he "would never be compelled to enforce the decree."

COMMUNISTS OUSTED.

Boston, July 28.—At a political conference of trade unionists and sympathizers in this city, the communists were refused admittance by a five to one vote. The communists represented their camouflage, the workers' party.

WORKERS IN BIG STEEL STRIKE

Chicago, July 28.—Workers in the Illinois Steel company plant at South Chicago struck today against the 12-hour day. Between 1,500 and 2,000 men are involved in the strike.

The company has announced that it will not recognize the union, and will not discuss the matter with union officials.

FEARS RAIL INJUNCTION MAY AROUSE DISCONTENT

Philadelphia, July 28.—The Philadelphia Public Ledger is not enthusiastic over Attorney General Daugherty's permanent injunction against the shop men. The editor first makes this comment on Judge Wilkerson's order:

"This injunction was amazing in its sweep. It was more binding than any in our long history of industrial war. It silenced men's tongues, bound their hands and tied up union funds so they might not be used on the strike. More than 400,000 men and their officers were placed under its duress."

It must not be supposed from the above, that the Public Ledger endorses the injunction from the standpoint of principle. The editor is not interested in the rights of the workers, only he does not like the way the injunction was done by the workers. This is why he opposes the injunction:

"This sort smacks the look of an industrial mistake, a judicial error and a political blunder. Labor's arm will be turned and other blows against the use of injunctions in maintaining order and protecting life and limb will be dragged into the coming national campaign to feed the fires of radicalism."

LIFE ENDANGERED BY UNSAFE WIRING

New York, July 28.—Unsafe and extra hazardous electric wiring in many buildings endanger life and property in this city, says Charles L. Eidlitz, well-known builder, who declares there is urgent need for correcting this menace. He blames largely the so-called "dollar license." The payment of a small fee enables many an otherwise incompetent workmen to install electric systems which may remain a menace even after repeated inspection.

"Defective or improper work or the use of inferior materials may be concealed if these so-called $1 licenses are abandoned and the licensed contractor is brought to book promptly and effectively if he persists in doing improper work," said Mr. Eidlitz.

STOOL PIGEON'S CLAIM REFUTED BY "COPPERS"

Lewisburg, W. Va., July 28.—At the trial of Frank Keeney, district president of the United Mine Workers of America, Charleston policemen refuted testimony of a mine-owner's stool pigeon who swore that at a meeting in Charleston Keeney declared every union man should be armed with a rifle and ammunition.

Three policemen who were present at the meeting testified that the trade unionist did not make that statement or anything that sounded like it.

LET PEOPLE OWN WATER.

Bellingham, Wash., July 28.—Let the people own the marvelous water power of this state, declared Hamilton Holt, president of the Washington state federation of labor, held in this city.

The speaker declared that the co-ordination of water power and irrigation resources, developed under public supervision "will bring light, power, domestic water supply and irrigation service to the people at much lower rates than private enterprise operating for profit, or isolated effort by municipalities."

CLOTHING PRICES UP.

New York, July 28.—The American woolen company (the trust) has advanced clothing prices, and buyers are said to have paid the past few increase along to the public, which is now carrying nearly a maximum burden.

TO UNITE ORE MINERS.

Duluth, Minn., July 28.—The convention of the state federation of labor in this city resolved to organize ore miners along the Mesaba range, north of this city. The range is controlled by subsidiaries of the steel trust, and the usual anti-union policy is maintained.